

GOPIO

The Association of Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin



ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

GOPIO Malaysia Secretariat

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Notice of 18th Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 18th Annual General Meeting of the Association of Global Organization of the People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) will be held on 28th May 2016 at 2.30 pm at Grand Ballroom 3, Dorset Grand Subang, Subang Jaya, Selangor.

AGENDA

1. President's Welcome Address
2. To receive minutes of the 19th Annual General Meeting of GOPIO held on Saturday 23th May 2015, at 9.30 am at Utara 2, Level 2, and Crystal Crown Hotel Petaling Jaya.
3. To receive and adopt
 - 3.1 Annual Report for the year 2015 – 2016
 - 3.2 Annual Financial Report for the year ended 31st December 2015.
4. Other Matters

Annual Report for the Period June 2015 to May 2016

The 18th annual term of GOPIO Malaysia beginning June 2015, was an active year for the Committee to sustain the ongoing programmes and new projects. For GOPIO the year was a challenge in voluntary service. Best of our efforts were put in to provide satisfactory services.

The main activities for the term are as follows,

1. Tamil Nadu Global Investors Meet Tamil Nadu (GIM) 2015

On the 9th September 2015, GOPIO Malaysia led a delegation of 35 including media journalists to the Global Investors Meet (GIM) in Chennai. This grand event was an effort to build on the attractive growth prospects in Tamil Nadu and the Government's commitment in maintaining the state's position as one of India's most preferred investment destinations.

This Global Investors' Meet was held on 9th and 10th September, 2015, at Chennai Trade Centre, Chennai, and Tamil Nadu. This event was fully focused to realize Tamil Nadu's vision of inclusive growth through investment inflows, growth in employment, balanced regional development and environmentally sustainable long term development.

GOPIO was one of the major participants in the special new economic corridor. GOPIO and Tamil Nadu signed an Agreement for the GOPIO Integrated Township of 540 acres. This is an opportunity for PIOs to invest.

2. Shri Narendra Modi's visit to Malaysia

The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi visited Malaysia for the ASEAN summit from 21st to 23rd November 2015. GOPIO Malaysia was privileged to be one of the partners in organising a Community Reception in the honour of PM Modi's visit to Malaysia. The reception was held on the 22nd Nov 2015, at 4pm at Mines Convention Centre. It was a great opportunity for all of us to interact with the PM an important occasion for PIOs in Malaysia.

GOPIO was able to successfully enrol almost 900 participants and this show of support greatly enhanced the bilateral ties between Malaysia and India for mutual growth. GOPIO would like to thank everyone who supported this event to make it a success.

3. GOPIO International Excellence Awards 2015

This bi-annual event was organized successfully for the sixth successful time on the 18th December 2015 in Sime Darby Convention Centre.

The event was attended by about 800 invitees inclusive of Diplomats, Academics, Captains of Industries, Professionals, Foreign Guests, PIO Sister Organization leaderships, and GOPIO/MAIUG members. The Chief Guest, His Excellence Shri T.S. Tirumurti, High Commissioner of India to Malaysia gave a captive keynote address outlining some of GOPIO's pioneering contributions.

His Excellency's speech was well received with applause from the guests. GOPIO International awarded 7 Corporate Leaders and 5 representatives of the Tamil School education stakeholders. The High Commissioner of India to Malaysia presented the entrepreneur category awards and Datuk Dr. Elamaran Sabapathy presented the "Synergizing Tamil Schools" award.

The Award banquet provided an excellent ambiance for the Awardees and the guests to network and build fellowship. The guests were entertained by musical and fusion dance performances.

The GOPIO International Excellence Awards ceremony is organized by GOPIO bi-annually to highlight Role Models for the young generations to encourage larger growth in the number of entrepreneurs.

4. Meeting with the Minister of State of External Affairs and Overseas Indian Affairs

On early Sept 2015, GOPIO delegation comprising of Mr Selvarajoo, Mr Ravendiran and Mr James Naidu met the MOIA Minister H.E General (Rtd) V.K Singh, Secretary and the First Secretary of the MOIA Ministry. The following matters were brought to their attention

A. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD 2016)

As the growth in the South East Asia region is expanding fast, it is important that the network amongst the PIOs in this region is given equal importance. Both South East Asia and India must continue to capitalize on the progress in the region.

While India is actively engaging the South East Asia nations, we propose that a special session be held within the PBD 2106 to create a better understanding on the potentials that South East Asia can offer to PIOs and India in business, education, research and social-cultural aspects. It was pointed out that Malaysia is actively progressing as a Regional Hub for ASEAN.

B. PIO University

We pointed out the status of the PIO University is still not clear. We requested the matter to be highlighted to the relevant authorities for review and the possible implementation soon.

C. Diaspora Scholarship

We requested to increase the number of Diaspora scholarship for PIOs which is timely now as the awareness on the relevance Indian tertiary education is on the rise again in Malaysia. However, it was pointed out that the Diaspora Scholarship Scheme has been put on hold for 2015. GOPIO reiterated that the Diaspora scholarship has been meaningfully providing opportunities to many under privileged Diaspora youth to obtain tertiary education. Therefore it is necessary that this scholarship be continued with increased number to reach out to many more PIOs.

D. Diaspora Studies

We explained that the distinction between PIOs and NRIs has to be rigorously studied and defined so as to systemize the respective and distinct socio-economic growth of PIOs and NRIs and their contribution to India and Diaspora. The study will also meaningfully pave way for better integration and application of new ideas amongst academic and researchers.

5. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2016 – Live Online Interaction with the Minister of External Affairs Shrimathi Shusma Swaraj.

The annual Pravasi Bharatiya Divas which was celebrated every year for 13 years continuously has been revamped this year. The PBD is now to be celebrated every two years and in the intervening years would involve the various issues concerning PIOs and come up with recommendations so that the issues of the diaspora could be addressed and problems could be solved.

The PBD this year was celebrated in a very new and a different way. This event was celebrated across the world in all the Indian Embassies and Missions.

This is a much welcome change in the focus and direction of the government of India in addressing the diaspora. The PBD format is also changed where instead of one big event, there will be monthly discussions which will be held where ten members of the Diaspora will be invited, together with five specialists from India, and there will be day-long deliberations.

GOPIO Malaysia collaborated with the Indian High Commission to organize the Online Interaction with the Minister of External Affairs Shrimathi Shusma Swaraj on the 9th Jan 2016 in the Indian Studies Department, Faculty of Arts and Social Studies, University Malaya, Kuala Lumpur.

The event was attended by almost 300 participants who watched the Live Online session involving 5 countries such as Malaysia, UAE, Singapore, United Kingdom and Mauritius who were online at the same time. This event was an excellent opportunity for us to highlight our expectations and at the same time better understand the needs of the PIOs.

6. Participation of GOPIO Malaysia in the Panel Discussions under the PBD 2016 series

GOPIO Malaysia is proud to say that GOPIO Malaysia Chairman Mr.Selvarajoo Sundram was one of the panellist invited by the Government of India to participate in the Panel Discussions as part of the changes introduced to the Pravasi Bharathiya Divas event. The panel discussion which as titled “Delivering Consular Services” was held on 29 March 2016 under the PBD 2016 series, which will be chaired by the Hon’ble Minister of External Affairs, Smt. Sushma Swaraj.

7. Synergizing Tamil School Growth

One of the important grassroots activities that GOPIO Malaysia has embarked on last year is the “Synergizing Tamil Schools Growth” project which is a collection of programmes for all round improvement of the Primary school students that will assist for their excellent results performance.

In the last two years, the primary Tamil schools academic performance in UPSR has averaged just above the National Primary Schools average results. This is the fruitful result of over thirty years of collective community efforts to improve the Tamil schools performance. GOPIO will give strong inputs to permanently sustain this improvement in the Tamil School performance.

A number of Pilot programmes have been identified and is being in various stages of implementation.

The first such pilot program is the Project VAIRAM. VAIRAM is the social responsibility programme under taken by GOPIO. This project is aimed at improving the academic performance of mediocre Tamil school pupils in 2 selected schools around Klang. This programme intends to strengthen the self-esteem of the pupils thus motivating them to try their best to excel in their studies.

VAIRAM is initially introduced for 60 students in 2 schools in the Klang Valley, jointly with the PTA's School Board and teachers. Independently another 2 schools are monitored, with the school teachers won efforts. The time line given to run this project is for 3 years.

GOPIO under takes the funding of this project which may cost around RM100000 per year. PASUMAI, a NGO committed to improve the social and educational wellbeing of Indian students is the implementer of the programme.

Another program that GOPIO is currently working on is the GOPIO Professional Development Programme for SJKT Teachers. In December 2016, the first batch of 40 teachers will be introduced to special teaching courses in Tamil Nadu with the objective of achieving excellent teaching methodology.

8. Chennai Flood Relief Funds

Torrential rain in Chennai, India has resulted in terrible flooding. Hundreds of people have died, and thousands of families have been displaced. GOPIO Malaysia, MAIUG and Tamil Malar daily jointly organized relief work and emergency supplies for Chennai and other affected cities in Tamil Nadu.

This relief effort were coordinated effort through established ground contacts of GOPIO's International Network of PIO's in India and Tamil Nadu in particular.

GOPIO Malaysia jointly with Tamil Nadu Daily News and MAIUG managed to raise RM 51,000.00 to assist in the reconstruction of 2 classrooms of a primary school in Karaikudi. The completion of the classroom is expected within six months.

9. Corporate Social Responsibility at Pulau Carey

GOPIO Malaysia and MAIUG (Malaysian Indian University Graduates Association) jointly participated in a CSR project at Pulau Carey Estate in Pulau Carey. The team carried out medical camp and around 200 residents were given medical treatments. The team also handed out aids in the form of 2 months supplies of food provisions to 70 single parents.

10. International Yoga Day

In conjunction with the first International Yoga Day organized by the High Commission of India on 21st June 2015, GOPIO Malaysia also joined in the event. About 55 members attended the event. Overall the event was successful with nearly 200 participants from various organizations.

Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi asked the world leaders to adopt an International Yoga Day, saying that by changing lifestyle and creating consciousness, it can help us deal with climate change. Addressing the 193 member UN General Assembly in United Nations. Modi says 'let us work towards adopting an International Yoga Day, 'Noting that Yoga is an invaluable gift of our ancient tradition', he said: 'It is not about exercise but to discover the sense of oneness with yourself, the world and the nature.'

Yoga embodies unity of mind and body; thought and action; restraint and fulfilment; harmony between man and nature; a holistic approach to health and wellbeing,' he said, adding 'By changing our lifestyle and creating consciousness, it can help deal with climate change.

11. Delegation to Mauritius for the "Most Outstanding Person of Indian Origin" award presentation

GOPIO Malaysia led a delegation of businessmen to Mauritius from 19 to 24th May 2016. The delegation was to witness the awarding of the "Most Outstanding Person of Indian Origin" award presentation to the Prime Minister of Mauritius, The Right Honourable Sir Aneerood Jugnauth. In 1995 under the aegis of PM Sir Aneerood Jugnauth, GOPIO was established in Mauritius. Further, Mauritius proclaimed the PIO Capital in December 2003 jointly with the Deputy PRIME Minister Pravind Jugnauth. Since then, the Prime Minister of Mauritius is the permanent patron of GOPIO.

As part of our effort to initiate the 2nd level engagement of PIO Diaspora, we met the Prime Minister on a closed door meeting seeking his support to help GOPIO to move to greater heights. Amongst the matters that were positively discussed was the special facilitation for businesses for PIOs.

The delegation then met the Minister of Culture and Arts, MP Pravind Jugnauth, Deputy DG of the Agriculture Ministry, MD of SMEDA (small and medium enterprise development

agencies) and a courtesy visit to the Vice president of Mauritius. A special meeting was also held with the President of The Temple Federation of Mauritius.

Some opportunities in the following sectors were discussed

1. Organic farming
2. Soil Rejuvenating Technology
3. Smart city Projects
4. Land Reclamation
5. Sand Mineral Extracts
6. Trading
7. Ayurveda
8. Housing Development
9. Education

On the whole the discussion were very fruitful and shall form the basis the 2nd level engagement with Mauritius as the PIO Capital more effectively.

12. OCI Card

GOPIO Malaysia received a total of 100 new applications for the OCI card. The role of GOPIO is to provide advice and guidance on how to prepare the necessary documentations and also the application process. A total of 30 people have received their cards and the rest are in process.

13. GOPIO Shelter Home

The Shelter Home is an ongoing program, to facilitate stranded Indian workers for their return to India. This program is sponsored by the Government of India facilitated by GOPIO Malaysia. A total of 150 Indian workers who took residence in the Shelter Home managed by GOPIO were assisted to return to India in this period. Further, 300 external staying workers including 12 women, were facilitated on the request of the High Commission of India.

The Shelter Home Committee wishes to put on record the full assistance and support given by the Immigration and Police Departments for executing the meticulous works of the documentation that is essential prior to the workers departure to India.

14. GOPIO save A Heart Programme - Heart to Heart

Free cardiac services and cardiac surgical services are available for children below the age of 18 years. The incident of children born with heart problems are now on the rise and at times has led to fatalities. GOPIO hopes to reduce these child cardiac failures to lower numbers.

GOPIO Malaysia, MediAssist4u and Tamil Malar are the collaborating partners of this Community Health Service program.

15. SEDIC Training Grant - GOPIO Launches 'En Pillai En Poruppu' Campaign

(My Child Is My Responsibility).

GOPIO is focused on engaging with the community to address crucial issues that impacts the Indian community's socio-economic development.

One critical area focused by GOPIO is academic enhancement and moral deterioration amongst the Indian youth. High dropout rate of Indian students (70% of the total dropouts number- 2012 statistics), high suicide rate (higher than national average), gangsterism, bullying in school, alcoholism amongst school students; these are just some of the critical social ills currently impacting the youth of the Malaysian Indian community.

As an intervention program, GOPIO is going back to the roots; to work on strengthening the family unit. The first program under this initiative is to empower the community with effective parenting skills. It is evident that disengagement exists between parents and their children today. Generation gap, lack of time spent together, media influence, lack of awareness on importance of family unity are some of the issues that has led to the disengagement.

As a pilot project to understand the exact needs and the problems faced by the community, GOPIO launches a parenting skill training program to assist the community. The groups targeted under this initiative are parents who hail from low income and middle-income families, single parents, parents who have high-risk children and parents who can benefit from the program.

This parenting program will be executed with the financial support of the Socio-Economic Development of the Indian Community Unit (SEDIC) of the Prime Minister's Department. For a start, GOPIO will conduct this program in three states: Johor, Perak and Penang.

This program is conducted in three phases:

Phase 1: A two-day workshop for parents on 'Effective Parenting Skills'.

Phase 2: Four weeks of monitoring activity.

Phase 3: A two-day parent-child bonding camp.

16. Government Funded Tertiary Education (IPTA) Institutes Awareness for Secondary Student in Orphanages.

The number of Indian students enrolling into the public tertiary institutes has reduced significantly over the years. The availability of education loans such as PTTN has changed

the tertiary education landscape in Malaysia. Since loans are easily accessible, students and parents have developed a mindset to choose private tertiary institutes over public tertiary institutes. The compounded impact of this change of mindset is the high education debt that affects our current graduates. Students pay a high fee for even a diploma program in a low ranked private tertiary institute.

GOPIO has since 2014 supported efforts to promote public tertiary institutes to the public. Since 2012, they have partnered as a co-sponsor for the IPTA My First Choice program conducted by the Concerned UM Indian graduates Team (CUMIG); a team comprising of Indian graduates.

This year, GOPIO has launched its own IPTA awareness program exclusively to assist the secondary students who reside in orphanages. This noble effort will be conducted with the financial support of SEDIC (Prime Minister's Department).

This initiative will be carried out in Johor, Malacca, Perak and Kedah. GOPIO targets to empower 450 students and their caretakers on comprehensive information on:

- Types of public funded tertiary institutes
- Entry requirement
- Application process
- Academic enhancement post certificate, diploma and degree.
- Career guidance on high-income jobs.
- Education opportunities in India
- Scholarships offered by Indian High Commission.

Through this effort, GOPIO aims to identify the needs of the students who are residing in orphanages. Follow-up programs will be designed and executed as a measure to sustain the effort to continuously empower these students with the needed information and skills.

Conclusion

GOPIO Malaysia would like once again thank all the members, volunteers, and silent supporters who assisted in various ways in ensuring success of the programmes of GOPIO Malaysia. We seek support from all to make GOPIO an organization that continuously meets its formation objectives and meaningful organization for the PIO community.